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Brao language

Brao is a Mon–Khmer language of Cambodia and Laos.

Brao	
Native to	Cambodia, Laos
Native speakers	59,000 (2005–2008)[1]
Language family	Austroasiatic ▪ Bahnaric ▪ West ▪ **Brao**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously: `brb` – Lave `krr` – Krung `krv` – Kavet
Glottolog	`lave1249 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/lave1249)`[2]

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Phonology

Consonants[3]

	Labial	Coronal	Palatal	Velar	Dorsal
Nasals	ʰm m	ʰn n	ɲ	ʰŋ ŋ	
Obstruents	pʰ p b ʔb	tʰ t d ʔd	ç c ɟ ʔɟ	kʰ k g ʔg	ħ ʔ
Trill		r			
Approximant		l	j	w	

Varieties

According to Ethnologue, there are four distinct but mutually intelligible varieties, sometimes considered separate languages: **Lave** (Brao proper), **Kru'ng** (Kreung), and **Kavet** (Kravet), the latter spoken by only a couple thousand.

Sidwell (2003) also lists four communities of speakers, three of which are in Cambodia.

- **Laveh** (Lave, Rawe): spoken in Attapeu Province, Laos south of the capital city of Attapeu. Laveh is the official designation given by the Laotian government.
- **Krung** (Krüng, "Krung 2"): spoken around Ban Lung in Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia
- **Kavet** (Kravet): spoken in Voeun Sai District, Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia
- **Brao** (Brou, Palaw, Preou): spoken in and around the town of Taveng in Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia

Lun, spoken in Stung Treng Province, Cambodia, is related to Lave and Kavet (Philip Lambrecht 2012).[4]

Demographics

Sidwell (2003) suggests the possibility of a total of 50,000 speakers, while Bradley (1994:161) gives an estimate of 35,000. All estimates below are drawn from Sidwell (2003:30).

- Laos: The 1995 Laotian census places the Laveh population at 17,544.
- Cambodia: The Asian Development Bank gave an estimate of 29,500 speakers as of the early 2000s.
- Vietnam: About 300 Brau live in Đắc Mế village, Bờ Y commune, Ngọc Hồi district, Kon Tum province (Đặng, et al. 2010:112).[5] Parkin (1991:81) also estimates several hundred Brao in Vietnam.
- Thailand: Parkin (1991:81) estimates a Brao population of 2,500 in Thailand.

Districts of Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia

References

1. Lave (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/brb/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
   Krung (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/krr/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
   Kavet (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/krv/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Brao" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/lave1249). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Keller, Charles E. (April 1999). "Brao-Krung Phonology" (http://sealang.net/sala/archives/pdf8/keller2001brao.pdf) (PDF). *Mon-Khmer Studies*. **31**. Retrieved 10 June 2015.
4. http://li.payap.ac.th/images/stories/survey/khmer_khes_report_final.pdf
5. Đặng Nghiêm Vạn, Chu Thái Sơn, Lưu Hùng. 2010. *Ethnic Minorities in Vietnam*. Hà Nội: Thế Giới Publishers.

- Sidwell, Paul (2003). *A Handbook of comparative Bahnaric, Vol. 1: West Bahnaric*. Pacific Linguistics, 551. Canberra: Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University.

Further reading

- Keller, C. E. (1976). *A grammatical sketch of Brao, a Mon–Khmer language*. Grand Forks, N.D.: Summer Institute of Linguistics, University of North Dakota Session. OCLC: 2915938

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